

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 5240

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC TGEN OSCIRO

SUBJ: NEGOTIATION OF USG-GOR CULTURAL RELATIONS AGREEMENT
(ENERGY RESEARCH PORTION)

REF: (A) STATE 246618, (B) BUCHAREST 4877

1. PROBLEM RELATING TO LEGISLATION ALLOWING 120 DAYS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ERDA IS BOTH UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED BY GOR, BUT THIS IS NO GUARANTEE IT WILL NOT BE A POINT OF CONTENTION IN DRAFTING LANGUAGE FOR ARTICLE II IN NEW CULTURAL RELATIONS AGREEMENT. SCNE AND NCST HAVE INFORMALLY RAISED ISSUE WITH EMBASSY DURING PAST FEW DAYS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SUITABLE DRAFT LANGUAGE WILL BE FOUND TO COVER MUTUAL INTEREST IN ENERGY R&D COOPERATION, INCLUDING NUCLEAR R&D.

2. ROMANIAN SITUATION APPEARS EQUALLY DIFFICULT AS RESULT OF PRESSURE GENERATED BY FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DESIGN HELD BUCHAREST OCT. 24-25. IN ESSENCE NCST HAS EMERGED AS THE MONITORING AND COORDINATING BODY FOR ALL NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING ENERGY R&D, AND AS THE LEAD AGENCY IN WHAT CEAUSESCU HAS DECLARED THE "TECHNICO-SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION" TO BE INAUGERATED WITH THE 1976-80 FIVE-YEAR PLAN (SEPT-80). THE PLAN WILL PROVIDE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES RELYING HEAVILY ON APPLIED RESEARCH AND THOSE ASPECTS OF BASIC RESEARCH JUDGED MOST LIKELY TO SHORTEN THE RESEARCH-
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DEVELOPMENT-IMPLEMENTATION CYCLE.

3. SCNE WISHES TO PRESERVE CONTACT WITH THE AEC COMPONENT OF ERDA, BUT CLEARLY IS NOT THE PROPER COUNTERPART FOR A GENERAL AGREEMENT IN ENERGY R&D. NEITHER ARE NCST AND ERDA ENTIRELY CONVENIENT COUNTERPARTS, AS ROMANIAN ACTION AGENCIES IN ENERGY FIELD INCLUDE SCNE; MINISTRY OF MINES, PETROLEUM AND GEOLOGY; MINISTRY OF ELECTRICAL POWER; AND OTHERS. FINALLY, SCNE WISHES TO AVOID AN AGREEMENT WITH AEC THAT SUBSTITUTES FOR BROADER COOPERATION WITH ERDA OR THAT MIGHT REORIENT NUCLEAR COOPERATION ONLY TOWARD ENERGY R&D FOR SIMPLE REASON THAT SCNE HAS MANY INTERESTS NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO ENERGY FIELD. NEVERTHELESS, SCNE DOES NOT WISH TO BE IGNORED IN ANY AGREEMENTS REACHED ON ENERGY. COMMENT: ACTIVITY SPECIFICALLY UNDER PRESENT AEC/SCNE AGREEMENT HAS DROPPED TO SIGNIFICANCE, BUT SCNE OFFICIAL NOTES THAT TOTAL VOLUME OF GOR COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE WITH US IN NUCLEAR FIELD HAS BEEN SUSTAINED. THIS FACT IS CITED TO ASSERT DIVERSITY OF GOR CAPABILITIES WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE AWKWARD REALITY OF THE AEC/SCNE AGREEMENT. END COMMENT.

4. WE CONSIDER, AND BELIEVE GOR WILL TOO, THAT EXCESSIVELY ROUTINE TREATMENT OF SCNE/AEC AGREEMENT AND NON-COMMITAL POSITION ON ERDA CONTRADICT THE PUBLICALLY EXPRESSED US INTEREST IN NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ENERGY R&D. WE ARE CONCERNED THIS MAY CONTRIBUTE TO LOSS OF MOMENTUM DEVELOPED IN RELATIONS OVER PAST FEW YEARS AND ENHANCED MOST RECENTLY BY GOV. PETERSON'S AND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISITS. WHILE WE FIND NO ABSOLUTE NECESSITY TO TIE U.S. POSITION ON ARTICLE II TO THE COINCIDENTAL PRONOUNCEMENTS OF ROMANIAN NATIONAL S&T CONFERENCE, WE BELIEVE THE LOGIC OF EVENTS FAVORS A US INITIATIVE IN THIS AREA. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT CONSIDER FOLLOWING DRAFT TEXT AND SEEK ERDA/AEC OPINION ASAP. PLEASE ADVISE.

5. DRAFT TEXT: "THE PARTIES WILL ENCOURAGE THE EARLIEST FEASIBLE DISCUSSION BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE USA AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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TECHNOLOGY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA WITH THE OBJECT OF CONCLUDING A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION IN ENERGY-RELATED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE DOMAIN OF NUCLEAR SCIENCES. IN THE INTERIM, THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION AND THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY SHALL REMAIN IN FORCE." END DRAFT TEXT.

6. IN THE MEANTIME, SCIATT HAS APPOINTMENT WITH SCNE
NOV. 13 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE EXTENSION AEC/SCNE MEMORANDUM
OF COOPERATION.
BARNES

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